

**Holland Conservation Commission
27 Sturbridge Road, Holland MA 01521
HCC Minutes April 27, 2021**

NOTE: Due to the Corona Virus this meeting was held remotely using Go-To-Meeting

NOTE: This meeting is being recorded on audio.

Members Attending Remotely: Jessica Chaffee, Chair; Kate Laabs; Marcia Beal; Sam Spratlin; Dawn Kamay **Non-member Recording Secretary:** Kathy McKenna.

Guest: George Russell, applicant for Conservation Agent

Members Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm by Jessica Chaffee.

Members introduced themselves to George Russell

Approval of Minutes from 4/13/2021: Sam made a motion to approve the minutes from 4/13/2021; Kate seconded. All in favor; motion passed. **Members who verbally voted in favor:** Kate Laabs, Marcia Beal; Sam Spratlin **Abstained because they were not in attendance:** Jessica Chaffee & Dawn Kamay **Verbally opposed:** None.
All in favor—Minutes of 4/13/2021 approved

Concom Correspondence Since April 13, 2021

EMAILS:

April 13 from BJ Church, Building Inspector, that 16 Brandon should have applied for a building permit for a permanent structure on the property.

Joey Wigglesworth with classes etc during the MACC Annual Conference ending April 17, 2021

Mark Stinson with GIS aerial shots of 33 Barney Road

April 14: Kathy McKenna, approved Minutes of March 13 for posting sent to Jessica Chaffee Wales and Board Clerk

Becky Hilbig noted that May 11 and June 8 (Tuesdays coming up) were in conflict with other Town meetings so by State law, Concom public meetings may not be held

Erin Pellicane to Dawn Kamay stating items requiring signature and mail in the Concom box

George Russell applying for the Conservation Agent job. Dawn forwarded to all commissioners.

Kaitlin Laabs reply to Dawn Kamay about incorrect size of DEP signs in our OOCs. Kaitlin reminded that what we write is the permit and becomes overriding

Kathy McKenna comments on the qualifications for the agent position

April 15: Sam Spratlin that George Russell looks like a highly qualified candidate for Agent

Becky Hilbig with Excel of blank Conservation Voucher for saving

Jeff Bridges, Town Admin, Sturbridge suggesting to B. Hilbig that we could advertise via MACC

Becky Hilbig letting us know that for a price we could post position for Agent via MMA as Town is a member of this organization but must cut some verbiage from our previous ads

Kaitlin Laabs suggesting we interview G. Russell at our next Concom mtg.

Sam Spratlin reply to Dawn suggesting we ask Mark Stinson, DEP Circuit Rider, to come train us in OLIVER and compensatory flood and best bank enhancement measures for our lakefront. Sam suggested the new Agent may be very qualified to train.

April 17: Kaitlin Laabs reply to Dawn Kamay's draft of enforcement letter to Marcia Lee in Brandon cove – looks good – should consider sending

April 20: Denise Knight, 1 Leno Rd, tree removal – forwarded to Sam Spratlin

April 20

April 21: Krystyna Perczak regarding noise on Allen Hill?/Alexander Rd?. Asked for exact address and possible reason for noise.

Brenda Dessert of Forward Real Estate Services asking about Lot 8 Vinton Road Re: Perc Test. As Email of BOH is full she wrote us. I checked with Building and she referred to BOH too Forwarded Brenda's email to BOH email system on 4/22/21.

April 22: Erin Pelicane that there is a new message in the voice mail box

BJ Church (Bldg Dept) that the perc test question re: 8 Vinton Rd lot is a question for the Board of Health

Lauren Trifone applying for the Conservation Agent opening. Dawn replied we'd be in touch.

Hugh Bower, Agent for Wales, update on the 33 Barney Road, Wales & Holland complaint. (*Wales is taking care of this*)

April 23: Chief Bryan Haughey regarding dock complaint from Leisure Drive.

Marcia Lee regarding dock complaint from neighbor in Brandon Cove

Jerry Joyal, 13 Massaconic Trail, wants to tear down and rebuild seawall. Dawn advised to fill out the NOI form

April 27: BJ Church, Bldg Inspector, going to 326 Mashapaug today and also Marcia Lee, Brandon St.

Chasse and Roche PC, asking for COC for 105 Sandy Beach, (*Very old COC from 1994. Dawn could not find anything recent—a very old one that is still open.*)

MAIL:

Notice from ZBA regarding tear down and new structure for 306 Mashapaug (David Tremblay owner, Scott Balderelli, petitioner) Hearing May 12 at 715pm

8a form from Robert Terbush, 21 Shore Drive. *(COC need a site visit)*

PHONE MESSAGES:

Marcia Lee, 16 Brandon St., wants copies of all correspondence (emails, etc.) relating to complaints about her and her property.

Marcia Lee, 16 Brandon St, received violation notice wants to talk to Commission. Willing to move dock, wants info on correct location

James Counihan, follow up to his dock issue at 62 Shore Drive which he has removed but would like to perhaps use at another property.

“Christina” re: rain damage, deformation of forest/environmental area.

Review of Site Visits:

- **No Tree Removal Site Visits**
- **Marcia Lee/Brandon Road:** Site visit made by Kate and Dawn. The dock is sitting on top of cement footings that are not dug into the lake. The deck is very large. Jessica noted that she has pressure treated wood in the water and Jessica would like proof that it is environmentally safe. Anything sitting on the lakebed floor needs to be removed. Dock and cement footings Discussion about the on-going complaints to Conservation regarding Brandon Rd., and how Concom should handle these neighborhood disputes. Marcia Lee has asked for all correspondence regarding her property. Kate feels this needs to be done through the town hall and legal avenues.

Tree Removal Applications: Two new applications Knight/1 Leno Rd. and Franzo 16 Lakeshore Drive. Site visits set for 9:30 am Wednesday 4/28/2021

Site Visits to Do:

- 1 Leno Rd. Denise Knight—tree removal application
- 16 Lakeshore Drive/Franzo—tree removal application
- Robert Terbush/21 Shore Drive—site visit for COC request for #184-0377

326 Mashapaug/Breor: A letter needs to be sent asking him to install sediment barriers by May 8. The letter will request that Mr. Breor contact Conservation by May 10 in order to set up a meeting on his building site prior to May 19 so that members can discuss issues/concerns that have been observed in an effort to find acceptable solutions.

49 Forest Drive/Celeste Brackett/Garage: The address was incorrectly listed on tonight's agenda as 19 Forest Drive. The foundation is not for a garage, but rather for an addition. Kate was wondering if they got a building permit. Dawn will try to reach the Building Inspector to get a status update. The addition is almost completed and it is jurisdictional due to the wetlands that are upland along the intermittent stream.

105 Sandy Beach Drive/Champagne: Dawn asked about an open OOC from 1994. Jessica wants to know what the COC is for as it is not clearly stated in the filing. In 1994-95 a new foundation was put in place and apparently there is an open OOC from 1994.

Round Table

Pollution Concerns Barney Road (Complaint from Wales Conservation Agent): Wales is handling this.

Sam asked about how to contact Stacy about weed treatment.

Dawn noted that we need to have the Dam inspected per notification by the state.

7:00 pm Public Hearing Continuance NOI #184-0382 Rebecca Hilbig/9 Hamilton Drive Project: Stairs and Wall Repair

Persons Attending Remotely: Jessica Chaffee, Chair; Kate Laabs; Marcia Beal; Sam Spratlin Dawn Kamay; Rebecca and Rolf Hilbig (applicants) **Non-member Recording Secretary:** Kathy McKenna **Guest:** George Russell.

Kate made a Motion to close the continued Public Hearing; Sam Seconded. Members who voted verbally in favor: Jessica Chaffee, Chair; Kate Laabs; Marcia Beal; Sam Spratlin; Dawn Kamay **Verbally opposed:** None

Public Hearing was closed at 7:12 pm

Discussion: Kate reviewed the draft OOCs for the plan dated 3/21/2021. Kate wanted to be sure Conservation is contacted prior to starting the project. She explained stabilization condition. Kate noted that the lake level is really high right now. Dawn will arrange to get Becky the turbidity curtains. The stairs will stop right at the rip-rap and the dock is the last step; it gets placed over the rip rap. Kate asked about the planting plan. Becky will meet with Dawn tomorrow regarding a planting plan and submit it to Concom to be included in the OOC filing. Becky does not have a start date from Creative Exteriors. Jessica suggested she tell them not to start before 12 or 14 days.

Motion: Kate made a motion to accept the OOC as written with the planting plan to be included. Marcia seconded. **Members who voted verbally in favor:** Jessica Chaffee, Chair; Kate Laabs; Marcia Beal; Sam Spratlin; Dawn Kamay **Verbally opposed:** None

All in favor motion passed. The OOCs were accepted as presented with planting plan to be included.

Jessica will e-file the OOCs so she will need the planting plan prior to e-filing. Jessica explained the filing process and time lines to the Hilbigs.

NOI #184-0383/Tighe and Bond/Utility Poles along Mashapaug Rd.

The OOCs were reviewed. There were questions as to who was the actual applicant given the easement—National Grid or the Town. It is an easement right-of-way, so some special conditions were eliminated because they were deemed unnecessary.

Kate made motion to approve the OOCs as amended tonight. Sam seconded. Members voting verbally in favor: Jessica Chaffee, Chair; Kate Laabs; Marcia Beal; Sam Spratlin; Dawn Kamay **Members verbally opposed:** NONE

All in favor; motion passed. The OOCs were accepted with changes to reflect the easement right-of-way.

NOTE: Jessica will set up a time to train members on filing NOIs; She will post a training meeting for 7 pm Monday, May 3.

**7:30 pm Interview with applicant for Conservation Agent
George Russell**

George noted that his academic training is geography and professional work is environmental planning. He noticed the opening for this job on the MACC jobs board. Dawn explained the make-up of the town and particular, on-going concerns about Hamilton Reservoir. He commented that Spencer also noted an exponential growth in year round residential building near or abutting water ways and wetlands. One of the things that George enjoys about being an agent is working with the public and working through the necessary permits and local by-laws. He wants to make sure when the commission gets an application to review that all the prior work has been done. He feels an agent can take on a lot of the field work and follow-up on NOIs to make sure they are in compliance. Dawn is a bit concerned about our limitations on the budget. Jessica noted that we received 3 of the 319 Grants, and she feels that monitoring the implementation of these 319 Grants would be an important agent responsibility. George stated that he is available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. He has had experience with going to court on enforcement; although, he feels this is a last resort. He stated several times that the agent works for the Commission. The Commission is the decision maker and has the final say. He also believes that everyone who comes before Conservation needs to be treated the same. The process needs to be professional and should never be personal. Members thanked him for coming to the meeting and Kate mentioned that she appreciated that he took the time to attend the entire meeting, so he could get a sense of the our Conservation Commission and how we operate. Kate feels we should ask him for feedback on this meeting.

Motion: Marcia made a motion to extend an offer for the contracted position of Conservation Agent. Kate seconded.

Members who voted in favor: Jessica Chaffee, Chair; Kate Laabs; Marcia Beal; Sam Spratlin; Dawn Kamay **Verbally opposed:** None

Decision: Jessica will work on getting a formal offer to him and Dawn will work on drafting a contract and talking with the Town Attorney to make sure it is legally sound.

SPECIAL MEETING DATE NOTES:

- The May 11 and June 8 meetings are canceled due to other Town Meetings that are occurring.
- A special Conservation meeting will be set for Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7 pm

Adjournment:

- Dawn moved to adjourn the meeting, Sam seconded.
- Members who verbally voted in favor: No one was verbally opposed.
- Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McKenna, Recording Secretary (Non-member)